



Alliance News

Toledo-Poznań Alliance quarterly newsletter – Winter/Spring 2019

Annual Meeting 2019

The Board of Trustees of the Toledo-Poznań Alliance invites you, your family and friends to the Annual Meeting on Sunday, March 24, 2019, from 12 Noon to 2 p.m., in the Board Room of the Franciscan Center. The first order of business is a free, catered lunch from Lourdes University Catering plus homemade Polish desserts. This is a thank you for supporting TPA.

The agenda starts with a summary of the accomplishments of 2018. Members present will vote for board members and officers as well as on changes to the Regulations of Toledo-Poznań Alliance. The meeting ends with a discussion of plans for 2019.

Over the last three years, four trustees have left the board: Ursula Zulka Cauffiel, Rosalie Hinde and Chuck Hinde attained honorary status and Ann Galloway died. There has been no vice president for two years. TPA needs **you** to volunteer to be a board member or officer this year. Next year, TPA will celebrate its 30th anniversary. Can TPA make it to 35 years? 40 years?

That depends on you and your willingness to serve this noble organization. If not you, encourage your children and grandchildren to join TPA and be active members. Now is the time for action!

INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL, APRIL 13, 2019

This year on April 13, Toledo Sister Cities will be celebrating its 10th International Festival. You do not want to miss this.

It will be held at the Seagate Center in downtown Toledo, from 11 to 8 pm. Parking is available close by.

Things to enjoy:

There will be many Sister Cities involved including our own Toledo Poznan Alliance.

Toledo Poznan Alliance will have a table whereby we will be selling Polish coffeecakes from Brieschke's Bakery and have other items of interest from Poland.

There will be many kinds of foods including Japanese, Chinese, German, Polish and others to sample.

We will have entertainment from all over the world including our own Echoes of Poland who will be performing at 3:45.

There will be a Silent Auction/Bag Raffle booth where you can purchase items from many different countries.

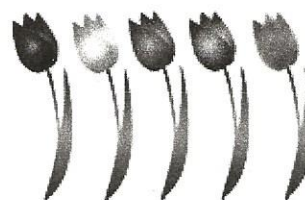
We will have various vendors who will be selling items from their countries.

A language center will be open so that you can take part in learning a few words of your favorite language. Kathy Grabel will be at the Polish language table.

And new this year, various Sister Cities will be giving a presentation about their Sister City. Our own Jackie Konwinski will be giving a presentation on Poznan, Poland our Sister City, which will include items of interest from both the past and present.

**YOU DO NOT WANT TO MISS THIS. WE
LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING YOU THERE.**

Pat Konwinski, Board Member Toledo Poznan Alliance.



WIGILIA CELEBRATION

On December 16, 2018, TPA and PACT collaborated holding a **2018 Wigilia Celebration** at the Christian Life Center at Olivet Lutheran Church in Sylvania, Ohio. The event was "sold out" at 140 guests who not only enjoyed a traditional Polish Wigilia dinner (meatless meal), but also learned about several Polish Christmas Eve customs, such as straw under the tablecloth and the extra place setting for the unexpected guest.

TPA President Jackie Konwinski and Past President Stan Machosky were co-emcees for the event. Dinner included an appetizer of Dill Pickle Soup, Carrot Raisin Salad, Cucumbers in Dill Sauce (Mizeria) and Placek. Main Course was Smoked Salmon, Pierogi filled with potatoes and mushrooms and Sweet and Sour Cabbage. Dessert was Angel Wings (Chrusciki) and Walnuts and Honey. Father Daniel Zak offered prayers and blessings. Rob Szczublewski and John Drozdowski led the group in singing kolędy (Polish Christmas Carols). The evening concluded with a raffle of Polish gifts, Chrusciki and Placek.

A "Thank You" is in order for the 30+ volunteers that made the evening a success. Special mention goes out to Boy Scout Troop 103 from Saint Paul's Lutheran Church in Maumee who helped

serve the meal.

Jackie Konwinski

Free Movie

TPA is joining with PACT to present *Ida*, the 2015 Oscar winner for Best Foreign Film. It is in Polish with English subtitles. Come to the Sylvania Branch Library on Monroe St. on Tuesday, April 2, from 6:30 to 8 pm. Polish refreshments will be served. Please register with Rozanne at 419-944-5312. Let's get 60 people for this event!

Polish Cultural Center update

The construction of the Polish Cultural Center continues to move forward with much progress. At the present time all surveys have been completed and approved. The location behind the Building Trades Building on Front Street near the Veterans Sky Bridge is a prime location with the development of the Maritime District on Front Street.

The Polish Cultural Center project has been chosen by a local architectural professional group to offer students at the high school and college level to design the building. This is going to provide a tremendous amount of publicity for the Polonia.

The PCC Advisory Board welcomes suggestions about the future use of the PCC upon completion. There are many opportunities in having a PCC, from meeting rooms, genealogy and language classes, events with seating for over 250 people, lounge for social gatherings, etc.

The PCC Advisory Board wants the support of ALL the Polish organizations in the Toledo area. Donations in remembrance of loved ones, to yearly contributions are greatly appreciated. You can contact the PCC by mail at: PCC, P.O. Box 291, Waterville, Ohio 43566 . or Tom Sorosiak (419 832-4333).

Poland Celebrated

Poland celebrated the 100th Anniversary of its independence and the formation of the Second Polish Republic (Rzeczpospolita Polska) in the fall of 2018.

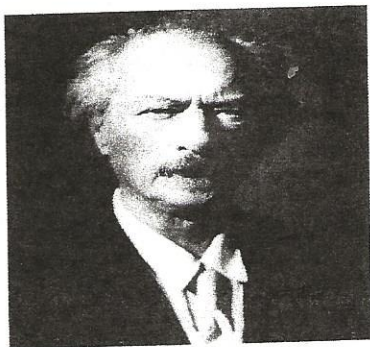
On January 8, 1918, President Woodrow Wilson addressed the United States Congress on the aims of World War I in his famous Fourteen Points speech. The Thirteenth Point stated that "an independent Polish state should be erected which should include the territories inhabited by indisputably Polish populations, which should be assured a free and secure access to the sea, and

whose political and economic independence and territorial integrity should be guaranteed by international covenant.” The Allies backed this point and ordered German troops to leave Poland in the Armistice of November 11, 1918. They formally established the nation of Poland in the Treaty of Versailles in June 28, 1919.

After 126 years of partition by Austria-Hungary, Prussia (Germany) and Russia, Poland became the Republic of Poland, an independent nation, a nation among nations. Marshall Józef Pilsudski became Chief of State, and pianist and statesman Ignacy Jan Paderewski became prime minister. The right-wing National Democracy Party (ND) and the Polish Peasant party (PSL) were the major political parties.

The new nation faced extensive war damage, a devastated economy controlled by German industrialists, ambiguous and insecure borders, an unsupportive minority population (one-third Ukrainians, Jews, Belarussians and Germans) and three separate parts of the country. However, the fall of 1918 was a new beginning for an oppressed people, a time of hope for the Poles and a light of democracy for the world.

Jozef Pilsudski



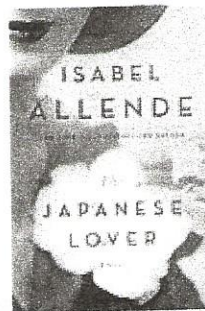
Jan Paderewski

Photos by K. Pecherski, Public Domain

United States Library of Congress

Book review by Jackie Konwinski

The Japanese Lover



Shortly before the beginning of World War II in 1939, the Mendels, wealthy Polish Jews, sent their eight-year-old daughter Alma to San Francisco to live with her Aunt Lillian and Uncle Isaac Belasco in freedom and wealth. Her older brother Samuel had previously left for England to join the British Royal Air Force.

In *The Japanese Lover*, Isabel Allende traces Alma's life from her arrival at the luxurious Sea Cliff mansion to her death at Lark House, a retirement home which was perfect in every way for aging men and women. Along the way, Alma encounters Japanese-Californian culture, Japanese internment camps in the western United States during World War II, post-Communist Moldova in Eastern Europe, freedom and strife in early Israel and the AIDS epidemic in San Francisco.

Allende's books are characterized by magic realism; Ichimei Fukuda, a Japanese-American gardener, brings this quality to Alma's life through his presence, letters and "magic." She pursues identity, abandonment, redemption, fate and the constancy of love. In 2014, President Barack Obama awarded this naturalized American citizen the Presidential Medal of Freedom for her contributions to the arts in the United States and the world. *The Japanese Lover* is a prime example of Allende's contribution.